

Conquest of the West 11-Sentence Paragraph

Name: _____

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PROMPT: Using information from the document, ideas from the above questions, write an 11 sentence paragraph explaining three impacts of westward expansion. You may want to use the words in the vocabulary box.

Although westward expansion had many positive effects for the growing country of the United States it created many negative impacts, as well. First of all, it formed a tight tension between the Plains Indians and Americans. By forcing the Indians off of their native and onto limited reservations, the Americans disrespected Native American culture and caused tempers to flare. This anger later led to bloody battles between the two groups, including Wounded Knee and Battle at Little Bighorn. Second, it caused a near extinction of buffalo in the plains. Towards the end of expansion, the U.S. government was still having trouble controlling Native Americans, so in a lasting effort, they tried to kill all of the Plains' buffalo. This was a major resource for Indians, and the government was hoping it would force them onto the reservations. The plan was executed, and nearly 40,000 buffaloes were killed, and the Indians were forced onto the government land. (Doc 1) Lastly, it tore apart a lot of the Plains. Through migration, the cattle industry, and railroads, western land was turned into a dirt field. This disrupted the habitat of many indigenous plants and animals. In conclusion, westward expansion had many positive effects, but also many negative ones.